



# CONCRETE IS MORE BEAUTIFUL DISFIGURED AND STAINED

by Snežana Žabić

Today's world is collapsing, and *Concrete Is More Beautiful Disfigured and Stained* is a record, a testimony kept for someone far in the future. With this collection, Snežana Žabić deliberately and forcefully pushes against the lyric tradition and leaves us haunted by the uneasy feeling that today's world is merely a future archeological site. These poems deliver to us Chicago, Yugoslavia, Europe, and more, as only a poet fully in control of the complexities and nuances of language can. They are time-traveling aircraft that transport us back and forth between worlds until we are as exhausted and disoriented as any immigrant. Though she eschews poetry claiming to offer deep epiphanies or universal truths, her work cuts to the heart of the malleability of the identities assigned to us through academics, family, and class. Identity, after all, is a slippery construct.

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HAUNTING. NUANCED. FORCEFUL.

Chicago-based transnational writer and musician **Snežana Žabić** is the author of the short story collection *U jednom životu* (KOS, Serbia, 1996), the hybrid memoir *Broken Records* (punctum books, USA, 2016), and the poetry collections *Po(jest)zija/Po(eat)ry* (SKC NS, Serbia, 2013) written with Ivana Percl, and *The Breath Capital* (New Meridian Arts, USA, 2016). Her work is included in *Cat Painters: An Anthology of Contemporary Serbian Poetry*, edited by Dubravka Ćurić and Biljana Obradović (Lavender Ink/Diálogos Press, USA, 2016). She plays guitar, writes songs, and sings in Rent Party, everyone's favorite feminist garage folk band. She teaches writing and literature as a part of the contingent academic workforce and has been a proud union member of UIC GEO, SEIU Faculty Forward, and UIC United Faculty.



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